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IN THE CLAIMS

1 - 20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) An exhaust system component, comprising:  
a shell having an outer wall and an inner wall, wherein the shell forms a bushing that defines an opening through and connects the outer wall and the inner wall; and  
an oxygen sensor disposed through the bushing such that a portion of the oxygen sensor extends into an interior portion of the ~~shell-component~~.

22. (Previously Presented) The exhaust system component of Claim 21, wherein the bushing has a flat surface on an end opposite the inner wall.

23. (Previously Presented) The exhaust system component of Claim 21, further comprising insulation disposed between the outer wall and the inner wall and in physical contact with the bushing.

24. (Previously Presented) The exhaust system component of Claim 21, wherein the bushing is in a rounded portion of the shell.

25. (Previously Presented) The exhaust system component of Claim 21, wherein the shell having the inner wall and the outer wall is a double walled end-cone.

26. (Currently Amended) The exhaust system component of Claim 21, wherein threads are formed in the bushing ~~portion of the shell~~.

27. (Currently Amended) The exhaust system component of Claim 21, wherein the oxygen sensor is positioned within the ~~component-shell~~ shell at an angle less than 90 degrees to a centerline of the ~~component~~ shell.

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28. (Currently Amended) The exhaust system component of Claim 21, wherein the bushing is in an endcone of the ~~component~~ shell.

29. (Currently Amended) The exhaust system component of Claim 21, further comprising a gasket disposed in intimate contact with said bushing ~~element~~ and said oxygen sensor.

30. (Previously Presented) The exhaust system component of Claim 21, further comprising insulation disposed between said inner wall and said outer wall.

31. (Currently Amended) An exhaust system component, comprising:  
an endcone having an outer wall and an inner wall, wherein the outer wall and inner wall form a bushing that defines an opening through and connects the outer wall and the inner wall, and wherein the bushing has a flat surface on an end opposite the inner wall;  
an oxygen sensor disposed through the bushing such that a portion of the oxygen sensor extends into an interior portion of the ~~component~~ shell; and  
a gasket disposed in intimate contact with the flat surface and the oxygen sensor.

32. (Previously Presented) The exhaust system component of Claim 31, further comprising insulation disposed between said inner wall and said outer wall.